

Hablo Arte: Learn Spanish through Art!



Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation is Making it Happen!



WE ARE Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation and we are located in St. Joseph County. We have been serving students since 1963. The community is considered suburban, and the corporation encompasses 135 square miles. There are 10,720 students in the P-H-M school district with 11 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and Penn High School.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES At the Elementary School level, approximately 4,600 students are enrolled in grades K-5, and nearly 45% of these students are enrolled in our five Title I schools.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE is Hablo Arte and is a uniquely creative learning experience that is based upon two separate content areas tied intrinsically through cultural context. During this three-week experience (60 hours total), elementary students in grades K-5 begin the first steps in learning the Spanish language facilitated with and through the Visual Arts.

The curriculum was based upon World Language Core Standards such as Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities as well as the Indiana Standards for the Visual Arts encompassing Responding to Art, Visual Literacy, and Creating Art.

Each day, the Academic standards in both content areas directed the curriculum, and the inter-relationships between world language and visual arts provided a seamless integration that stimulated curiosity and creativity while focusing on the fundamental aspects of language learning.

Children were grouped in grade bands K-1, 2-3, and 4-5, and daily instruction ranged from immersion to instruction in both Spanish and English. All students experienced great levels of learning during this 3-week intensive session, and students, families, and teachers were equally pleased and excited with the results of this pilot program. The district plans to expand this creative integration and approach once again next summer.

OUR STEPS began with the research and development of the curricula was a genuine collaboration among three elementary teachers with backgrounds in Spanish and Visual Arts, one high school Spanish teacher, and one district administrator. The diversity of teaching backgrounds and professional expertise made the result multifaceted and the process refreshing and stimulating for students as well as teachers.

Learn Spanish through Art was offered as a pilot program for the first time during summer 2016 for students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. The pilot program was an outstanding success and the district plans to once again offer this program during 2017 summer enrichment opportunities.

IN OUR OWN WORDS One of the P-H-M teachers exclaimed, "The integration of art and language is a perfect match! I was able to emphasize cultural influences on art through a focus on vocabulary, color, mood, and traditions. A 5th grade student particularly loved the work of architect Antoni Gaudi and said that Sagrada Familia was "una catedral gigante y hermosa!!" Parents also expressed their pleasure with the program with hopes to see it continued in the future.

For more information about our school or corporation, email: Dr. Kay Rozzi Antonelli
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